

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION
(PCT Rule 61.2)

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of mailing (day/month/year) 04 October 2000 (04.10.00) | To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents United States Patent and Trademark Office Box PCT Washington, D.C.20231 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE in its capacity as elected Office |
| International application No. PCT/AU00/00054 | Applicant's or agent's file reference 88/16295 |
| International filing date (day/month/year) 03 February 2000 (03.02.00) | Priority date (day/month/year) 05 February 1999 (05.02.99) |
| Applicant BIRGDEN, Ingmar, Manfred et al | |

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

 in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

29 August 2000 (29.08.00)

 in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election was was not

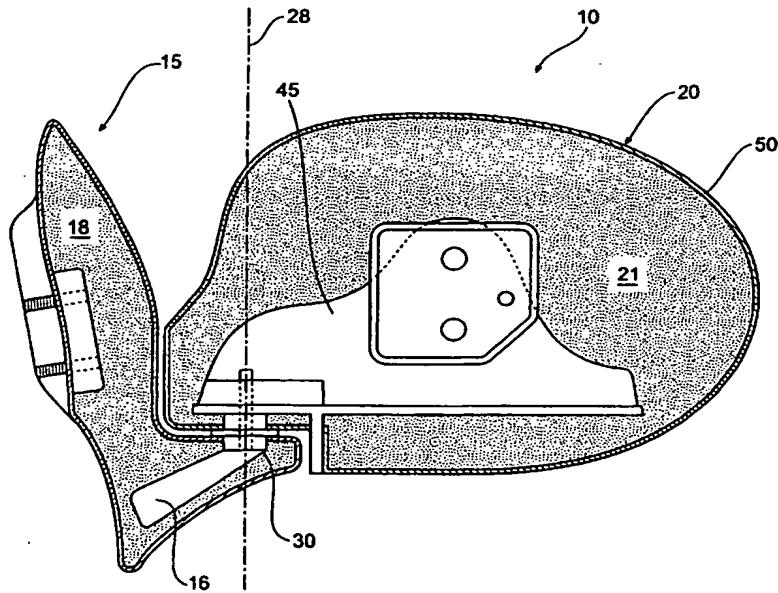
made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

| | |
|---|---|
| The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35 | Authorized officer F. Baechler Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38 |
|---|---|

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

| | | |
|--|----|--|
| (51) International Patent Classification 7 : B60R 1/06 | A1 | (11) International Publication Number: WO 00/46072 (43) International Publication Date: 10 August 2000 (10.08.00) |
| (21) International Application Number: PCT/AU00/00054 | | (81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). |
| (22) International Filing Date: 3 February 2000 (03.02.00) | | |
| (30) Priority Data: PP 8490 5 February 1999 (05.02.99) AU | | |
| (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BRITAX RAINSFORDS PTY LTD [AU/AU]; Sherriffs Road, Lonsdale, S.A. 5160 (AU). | | |
| (72) Inventors; and | | |
| (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BIRGDEN, Ingmar, Manfred [AU/AU]; 5 Mandalay Avenue, Glenalta, S.A. 5052 (AU). FIMERI, Garry, Gordon, Leslie [AU/AU]; 22 Golflands View, Morphett Vale, S.A. 5162 (AU). GILBERT, Robert, William [AU/AU]; Main Road, Willunga, S.A. 5172 (AU). NASH, Duncan, William [AU/AU]; 24 Lawson Road, Happy Valley, S.A. 5159 (AU). | | |
| (74) Agent: MADDERNS; 1st floor, 64 Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide, S.A. 5000 (AU). | | |

(54) Title: VEHICLE EXTERNAL MIRROR ASSEMBLY AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURE



(57) Abstract

A vehicle external mirror assembly (10) comprises three main parts: a vehicle-to-mirror assembly attachment bracket (15), a mirror housing (20) and a mirror (41). Housing (20) comprises a thin moulded external plastic shell (50) and a foam core (21), the foam anchoring and supporting the shell. A load diffuser (45) may be positioned within foam (21) to reduce the maximum tensile and compressive stresses within the foam (21). Attachment bracket (15) is of a similar construction with a thin shell (15) internal foam (18) and load diffuser (16).

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

| | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|--|----|--|----|--------------------------|
| AL | Albania | ES | Spain | LS | Lesotho | SI | Slovenia |
| AM | Armenia | FI | Finland | LT | Lithuania | SK | Slovakia |
| AT | Austria | FR | France | LU | Luxembourg | SN | Senegal |
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| BY | Belarus | IS | Iceland | MX | Mexico | US | United States of America |
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| CZ | Czech Republic | LI | Liechtenstein | SD | Sudan | | |
| DE | Germany | LK | Sri Lanka | SE | Sweden | | |
| DK | Denmark | LR | Liberia | SG | Singapore | | |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU 00/00054

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER | | |
| Int Cl ⁷ : B60R 1/06 | | |
| According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC | | |
| B. FIELDS SEARCHED | | |
| Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC: B60R 1/06 | | |
| Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched | | |
| Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) WPAT: B60R 1/IC & FOAM:/CORE:/CELL:/EXPAND: MIRROR & SHELL:/HOUSING:/BODY & MOULD:/MOLD: & INJECTION/BLOW | | |
| C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | |
| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
| X Y | DE 2537876 A1 (REITIER & SCHEFENACKER KG) 3 March 1977 whole document whole document | 1,7-8,14,22,28-34 2-5,9-12,23-26 |
| X Y | DE 4429604 A1 (MEKRA RANGAU PLASTICS GmbH) 22 February 1996 whole document Figure 3 | 1-5,32 2-5,9-12,23-26 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C | | <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex |
| <p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" Document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p> | | |
| Date of the actual completion of the international search 29 February 2000 | Date of mailing of the international search report 14 MAR 2000 | |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200 WODEN ACT 2606 AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No.: (02) 6285 3929 | Authorized officer R. SUBBARAYAN Telephone No.: (02) 6283 2377 | |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU 00/00054

| C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
| X | FR 2633568 A1 (HARMAN AUTOMOTIVE S A) 5 January 1990 whole document | 1 |
| X | DE 2820883 A1 (LICENTIA PATENT-VERWALTUNGS GmbH) 15 November 1979 whole document | 1 |
| A | DE 2740189 A1 (MITTELHAUSER) 8 March 1979 | |
| A | GB 2048191 A (BRITAX WINGARD LTD) 10 December 1980 | |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/AU 00/00054

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

| Patent Document Cited in Search Report | | Patent Family Member |
|--|---------|----------------------|
| DE | 2537876 | NONE |
| DE | 4429604 | NONE |
| FR | 2633568 | NONE |
| DE | 2820883 | NONE |
| DE | 2740189 | NONE |
| GB | 2048191 | NONE |

END OF ANNEX

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTICE INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF THE
COMMUNICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
APPLICATION TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICES

(PCT Rule 47.1(c), first sentence)

To:

MADDERNS
1st floor
64 Hindmarsh Square
Adelaide, S.A. 5000
AUSTRALIE

MADDERNS

23 AUG 2000

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Date of mailing (day/month/year) 10 August 2000 (10.08.00) | | | |
| Applicant's or agent's file reference 88/16295 | | IMPORTANT NOTICE | |
| International application No. PCT/AU00/00054 | International filing date (day/month/year) 03 February 2000 (03.02.00) | Priority date (day/month/year) 05 February 1999 (05.02.99) | |
| Applicant BRITAX RAINSFORDS PTY LTD et al | | | |

1. Notice is hereby given that the International Bureau has communicated, as provided in Article 20, the international application to the following designated Offices on the date indicated above as the date of mailing of this Notice:
AU,JP,KP,KR,US

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c), third sentence, those Offices will accept the present Notice as conclusive evidence that the communication of the international application has duly taken place on the date of mailing indicated above and no copy of the international application is required to be furnished by the applicant to the designated Office(s).

2. The following designated Offices have waived the requirement for such a communication at this time:

AE,AL,AM,AP,AT,AZ,BA,BB,BG,BR,BY,CA,CH,CN,CR,CU,CZ,DE,DK,DM,EA,EE,EP,ES,FI,GB,GD,
GE,GH,GM,HR,HU,IL,IN,IS,KE,KG,KZ,LC,LK,LR,LS,LT,LU,LV,MA,MD,MG,MK,MN,MW,MX,NO,
NZ,OA,PL,PT,RO,RU,SD,SE,SG,SI,SK,SL,TJ,TM,TR,TT,TZ,UA,UG,UZ,VN,YU,ZA,ZW

The communication will be made to those Offices only upon their request. Furthermore, those Offices do not require the applicant to furnish a copy of the international application (Rule 49.1(a-bis)).

3. Enclosed with this Notice is a copy of the international application as published by the International Bureau on
10 August 2000 (10.08.00) under No. WO 00/46072

REMINDER REGARDING CHAPTER II (Article 31(2)(a) and Rule 54.2)

If the applicant wishes to postpone entry into the national phase until 30 months (or later in some Offices) from the priority date, a **demand for international preliminary examination** must be filed with the competent International Preliminary Examining Authority before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date.

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to monitor the 19-month time limit.

Note that only an applicant who is a national or resident of a PCT Contracting State which is bound by Chapter II has the right to file a demand for international preliminary examination.

REMINDER REGARDING ENTRY INTO THE NATIONAL PHASE (Article 22 or 39(1))

If the applicant wishes to proceed with the international application in the **national phase**, he must, within 20 months or 30 months, or later in some Offices, perform the acts referred to therein before each designated or elected Office.

For further important information on the time limits and acts to be performed for entering the national phase, see the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 (Notification of Receipt of Record Copy) and Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

| | |
|--|---|
| The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35 | Authorized officer J. Zahra Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38 |
|--|---|

PCT

REQUEST

The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

For receiving Office use only

International Application No.

International Filing Date

Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"

Applicant's or agent's file reference
(if desired) (12 characters maximum) 88/16295

Box No. I TITLE OF INVENTION

VEHICLE EXTERNAL MIRROR ASSEMBLY AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURE

Box No. II APPLICANT

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name: for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

Britax Rainsfords Pty Ltd
Sheriffs Road
Lonsdale
South Australia, 5160
Australia

This person is also inventor.

Telephone No.
8201 7621

Facsimile No.
8201 7622

Teleprinter No.

State (that is, country) of nationality:

AUSTRALIA

State (that is, country) of residence:

AUSTRALIA

This person is applicant for the purposes of: all designated States all designated States except the United States of America the United States of America only the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name: for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

BIRGDEN, Ingmar Manfred
5 Mandalay Avenue
Glenalta
South Australia, 5052
Australia

This person is:

applicant only

applicant and inventor

inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

State (that is, country) of nationality:

AUSTRALIA

State (that is, country) of residence:

AUSTRALIA

This person is applicant for the purposes of: all designated States all designated States except the United States of America the United States of America only the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on a continuation sheet.

Box No. IV AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as: agent common representative

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name: for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)

Madderns
1st Floor
64 Hindmarsh Square
Adelaide
South Australia, 5000
Australia

Telephone No.

8223 6666

Facsimile No.

8223 2588

Teleprinter No.

Address for correspondence: Mark this check-box where no agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the space above is used instead to indicate a special address to which correspondence should be sent.

Continuation of Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)

If none of the following sub-boxes is used, this sheet should not be included in the request.

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

FIMERI, Garry Gordon Leslie
22 Golflands View
Morphett Vale
South Australia, 5162
Australia

This person is:

applicant only
 applicant and inventor

inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

State (that is, country) of nationality:

AUSTRALIA

State (that is, country) of residence:

AUSTRALIA

This person is applicant for the purposes of:

 all designated States all designated States except the United States of America the United States of America only the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

GILBERT, Robert William
Main Road
Willunga
South Australia, 5172
Australia

This person is:

applicant only
 applicant and inventor
 inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

State (that is, country) of nationality:

AUSTRALIA

State (that is, country) of residence:

AUSTRALIA

This person is applicant for the purposes of:

 all designated States all designated States except the United States of America the United States of America only the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

NASH, Duncan William
24 Lawson Road
Happy Valley
South Australia, 5159
Australia

This person is:

applicant only
 applicant and inventor
 inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

State (that is, country) of nationality:

AUSTRALIA

State (that is, country) of residence:

AUSTRALIA

This person is applicant for the purposes of:

 all designated States all designated States except the United States of America the United States of America only the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

This person is:

applicant only
 applicant and inventor
 inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

State (that is, country) of nationality:

State (that is, country) of residence:

This person is applicant for the purposes of:

 all designated States all designated States except the United States of America the United States of America only the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on another continuation sheet.

Box No.V DESIGNATION OF STATES

The following designations are hereby made under Rule 4.9(a) (mark the applicable check-boxes: at least one must be marked):

Regional Patent

AP ARIPO Patent: GH Ghana, GM Gambia, KE Kenya, LS Lesotho, MW Malawi, SD Sudan, SL Sierra Leone, SZ Swaziland, UG Uganda, ZW Zimbabwe, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Harare Protocol and of the PCT

EA Eurasian Patent: AM Armenia, AZ Azerbaijan, BY Belarus, KG Kyrgyzstan, KZ Kazakhstan, MD Republic of Moldova, RU Russian Federation, TJ Tajikistan, TM Turkmenistan, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Eurasian Patent Convention and of the PCT

EP European Patent: AT Austria, BE Belgium, CH and LI Switzerland and Liechtenstein, CY Cyprus, DE Germany, DK Denmark, ES Spain, FI Finland, FR France, GB United Kingdom, GR Greece, IE Ireland, IT Italy, LU Luxembourg, MC Monaco, NL Netherlands, PT Portugal, SE Sweden, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the European Patent Convention and of the PCT

OA OAPI Patent: BF Burkina Faso, BJ Benin, CF Central African Republic, CG Congo, CI Côte d'Ivoire, CM Cameroon, GA Gabon, GN Guinea, GW Guinea-Bissau, ML Mali, MR Mauritania, NE Niger, SN Senegal, TD Chad, TG Togo, and any other State which is a member State of OAPI and a Contracting State of the PCT (if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line)

National Patent (if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line):

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AE United Arab Emirates | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LR Liberia | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AL Albania | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LS Lesotho | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AM Armenia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LT Lithuania | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AT Austria | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LU Luxembourg | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AU Australia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LV Latvia | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AZ Azerbaijan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MD Republic of Moldova | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BA Bosnia and Herzegovina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MG Madagascar | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BB Barbados | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MK The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BG Bulgaria | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MN Mongolia | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BR Brazil | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MW Malawi | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BY Belarus | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MX Mexico | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CA Canada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO Norway | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CH and LI Switzerland and Liechtenstein | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NZ New Zealand | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CN China | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PL Poland | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CU Cuba | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PT Portugal | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CZ Czech Republic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RO Romania | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DE Germany | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RU Russian Federation | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DK Denmark | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SD Sudan | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EE Estonia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SE Sweden | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ES Spain | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SG Singapore | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FI Finland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SI Slovenia | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GB United Kingdom | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SK Slovakia | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GD Grenada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SL Sierra Leone | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GE Georgia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TJ Tajikistan | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GH Ghana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TM Turkmenistan | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GM Gambia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TR Turkey | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HR Croatia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TT Trinidad and Tobago | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HU Hungary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UA Ukraine | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ID Indonesia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UG Uganda | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IL Israel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> US United States of America | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN India | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UZ Uzbekistan | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IS Iceland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VN Viet Nam | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JP Japan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YU Yugoslavia | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KE Kenya | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ZA South Africa | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KG Kyrgyzstan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ZW Zimbabwe | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KP Democratic People's Republic of Korea | Check-boxes reserved for designating States which have become party to the PCT after issuance of this sheet: | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KR Republic of Korea | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Costa Rica | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dominica |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KZ Kazakhstan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Morocco | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> United Republic of Tanzania |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LC Saint Lucia | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LK Sri Lanka | | |

Precautionary Designation Statement: In addition to the designations made above, the applicant also makes under Rule 4.9(b) all other designations which would be permitted under the PCT except any designation(s) indicated in the Supplemental Box as being excluded from the scope of this statement. The applicant declares that those additional designations are subject to confirmation and that any designation which is not confirmed before the expiration of 15 months from the priority date is to be regarded as withdrawn by the applicant at the expiration of that time limit. (Confirmation of a designation consists of the filing of a notice specifying that designation and the payment of the designation and confirmation fees. Confirmation must reach the receiving Office within the 15-month time limit.)

Box No. VI PRIORITY CLAIM

 Further priority claims are indicated in the Supplemental Box.

| Filing date of earlier application (day/month/year) | Number of earlier application | Where earlier application is: | | |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| | | national application: country | regional application: [*] regional Office | international application: receiving Office |
| item (1) 05/02/1999 | PP 8490 | Australia | | |
| item (2) | | | | |
| item (3) | | | | |

The receiving Office is requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the earlier application(s) (only if the earlier application was filed with the Office which for the purposes of the present international application is the receiving Office) identified above as item(s): 1

* Where the earlier application is an ARIPO application, it is mandatory to indicate in the Supplemental Box at least one country party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property for which that earlier application was filed (Rule 4.10(b)(ii)). See Supplemental Box.

Box No. VII INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

Choice of International Searching Authority (ISA)
(if two or more International Searching Authorities are competent to carry out the international search, indicate the Authority chosen; the two-letter code may be used):

ISA /

Request to use results of earlier search; reference to that search (if an earlier search has been carried out by or requested from the International Searching Authority):

Date (day/month/year)

Number

Country (or regional Office)

Box No. VIII CHECK LIST; LANGUAGE OF FILING

This international application contains the following number of sheets:

request : 4
description (excluding sequence listing part) : 12
claims : 6
abstract : 1
drawings : 6
sequence listing part of description : _____

Total number of sheets : 29

This international application is accompanied by the item(s) marked below:

1. fee calculation sheet
2. separate signed power of attorney
3. copy of general power of attorney; reference number, if any:
4. statement explaining lack of signature
5. priority document(s) identified in Box No. VI as item(s):
6. translation of international application into (language):
7. separate indications concerning deposited microorganism or other biological material
8. nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing in computer readable form
9. other (specify): _____

Figure of the drawings which should accompany the abstract: 4

Language of filing of the international application: English

Box No. IX SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT OR AGENT

Next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing and the capacity in which the person signs (if such capacity is not obvious from reading the request).

Craig L Vinall
Patent Attorney of Madderns
Agent for the Applicant

For receiving Office use only

1. Date of actual receipt of the purported international application:

3. Corrected date of actual receipt due to later but timely received papers or drawings completing the purported international application:

4. Date of timely receipt of the required corrections under PCT Article 11(2):

5. International Searching Authority (if two or more are competent): ISA /

2. Drawings:

 received: not received:6. Transmittal of search copy delayed until search fee is paid.

For International Bureau use only

Date of receipt of the record copy by the International Bureau:

14

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

REC'D 20 FEB 2001

WIPO PCT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference P88/16295 | FOR FURTHER ACTION | See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416). |
| International Application No. PCT/AU00/00054 | International Filing Date (day/month/year) 3 February 2000 | Priority Date (day/month/year) 5 February 1999 |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. 7 B60R 1/06 | | |
| Applicant BRITAX RAINSFORDS PTY LTD et al | | |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheet(s).</p> | |
| 3. This report contains indications relating to the following items: | |
| I | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report |
| II | <input type="checkbox"/> Priority |
| III | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| IV | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention |
| V | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| VI | <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited |
| VII | <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application |
| VIII | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application |

| | |
|--|---|
| Date of submission of the demand 29 August 2000 | Date of completion of the report 13 February 2001 |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929 | Authorized Officer R. SUBBARAYAN Telephone No. (02) 6283 2377 |

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

the international application as originally filed.

the description, pages , as originally filed,
 pages , filed with the demand,
 pages , received on with the letter of
 the claims, pages , as originally filed,
 pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,
 pages , filed with the demand,
 pages , received on with the letter of
 the drawings, pages , as originally filed,
 pages , filed with the demand,
 pages , received on with the letter of
 the sequence listing part of the description:
 pages , as originally filed
 pages , filed with the demand
 pages , received on with the letter of

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:

the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).

the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).

the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, was on the basis of the sequence listing:

contained in the international application in written form.

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages

the claims, Nos.

the drawings, sheets/fig.

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims 4-6, 8-27, 30-34 | YES |
| | Claims 1-3, 7, 28-29 | NO |
| Inventive step (IS) | Claims 6, 13, 15-21, 27 | YES |
| | Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14, 22-26, 28-34 | NO |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims 1-34 | YES |
| | Claims | NO |

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

NOVELTY

- A) DE 2537876 Claims 1, 7, 28-29
- B) DE 4429604 Claims 1-3
- C) FR 2633568 Claim 1
- D) DE 2820883 Claim 1

Each of citations (A) - (D) discloses all of the features of the claims identified alongside. For example citation (A) discloses an external mirror assembly comprising a head 4, a mount for attaching the head to a vehicle and a mirror 2, the head comprising a moulded thin front external plastic shell 6 and a rear external plastic shell 5 and a foam core anchoring and supporting the front and rear shells. The edges of the front and rear shells are joined together by adhesion, welding or interlocking.

INVENTIVE STEP

Claims 8,14,22: Although citation (A) does not specifically define an overlapping joint or a butt joint or a foam gasket, these features are considered common general knowledge in the art and the skilled addressee would, without any inventive ingenuity and using routine steps, arrive at joints similar to those defined in these claims.

Claims 2,9-10,23-24: Citation (B) discloses a load diffuser 37,38 extending into the foam core. It would be obvious for a skilled addressee to combine this disclosure with that of citation (A) and thereby arrive at the claimed invention. These claims therefore lack an inventive step.

Claims 4,11,25: The feature of roughening the interior surface is considered well known and therefore not inventive.

Claims 5,12,26: It would be obvious for a skilled addressee to use the teachings of citation (A) and (B) and apply it to the mount as well. These claims therefore lack an inventive step.

(Continued in supplemental box)

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

1. Claim 4 lacks clarity because there is no antecedent for "said front and rear shells".

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of V.2

Claims 30-31: The features added by these claims are considered well known in the art and therefore not inventive.

Claims 32-34: Although citation (A) does not disclose blow moulding or gas assist injection moulding these features are considered well known in the art and a skilled addressee would be led to employing these techniques without any inventive ingenuity. These claims therefore lack an inventive step.